



DISASTER NEWS

Loans for Homeowners, Renters and Businesses of all Sizes

Release Date: August 5, 2004

Contact: Frank A. Adinolfi or Matt Young

Release Number: 05- 264, FL 10137/10138

Phone: 404-347-3771

SBA URGES HURRICANE DENNIS APPLICATION RETURN DON'T WAIT FOR INSURANCE SETTLEMENT

PENSACOLA, Fla. – Hurricane victims in declared Florida counties are being urged to complete and return their applications for loan assistance from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) as soon as possible, even if their insurance hasn't settled, and especially if they don't have insurance, according to SBA Acting Disaster Area Director Frank Skaggs.

“Don't wait to settle your insurance claim before turning in your completed SBA disaster loan application. SBA loan officers do not need insurance settlement information to process your application. We don't want anyone that had damages from Hurricane Dennis to miss the September 8 application deadline for physical damages,” Skaggs said today.

According to Skaggs, most homeowners, renter, and business owners will find they are not fully covered for their damages and will need additional funds to complete repairs. “But we can't help if you don't complete and turn in your SBA disaster loan application,” said Skaggs.

SBA is the primary source of long-term recovery assistance for homeowners, renters, non-farm businesses of all sizes, and private non profit organizations that received damage during the disaster. For an individual with personal property and/or home losses, a completed application will also keep the door open to other types of assistance. Those homeowners and renters who do not return a completed SBA application may be disqualifying themselves from other types of assistance, including possible grant assistance.

Even if you have insurance, you should call the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) and register for assistance. This one call will get you referred to the agency best able to meet your disaster-related needs, Skaggs added. SBA has staff at all Disaster Recovery Centers to answer any questions you have and provide any help you may need or want with completing your loan application.

Information on SBA loan applications and office locations is also available by calling the SBA Disaster Assistance Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (for the hearing-impaired 1-800-877-8339) or visiting the SBA Website at www.SBA.gov/disaster. Completed applications can be taken to any of the offices remaining open or can be mailed to: Disaster Assistance Loan Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76155.

The deadline for returning applications for physical damage is September 8, 2005; the deadline to return economic injury applications is April 10, 2006.

For more information visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster

###

SBA Disaster Assistance Office - Area 2—One Baltimore Place, Suite 300—Atlanta, GA 30308